



Ahnee and welcome to another year!

Last year was quite an unforgettable one.

First our Grand Chief was diagnosed with acute leukemia, but I am happy to say he is responding very well to treatment.

Our Medicine Man, Bill Moulaison, has passed on to be with the Creator. Let us all pray for them both and carry on and gain strength with the knowledge they have given, and still continue to give us.

On a lighter note:

In March of 2008, and in recognition of her work and studies with indigenous peoples and communities, Mount Allison University anthropology Professor Marilyn Walker was made an Honorary member of EWMNNS. The ceremony was conducted by Elder and Spiritual Leader Emile Gautreau who was assisted by Elder Norman Robicheau. Elder Adrienne Speak (on behalf of myself, Chief Parker), EWMNNS and other Elders were in attendance.

Dr. Walker is the first person in New Brunswick to receive this honor, and only two other individuals living in Nova Scotia have received such an honor.

They are Acadian University's Dr. Alan Warner and Kent Sweeney of Yarmouth.

Elder Adrienne Speck bestowed the name "Kitpou (eagle)" on Dr. Walker. Traditional drumming to honor the seven directions: North, South, East, West, Sun, Moon and Creator. As well as traditional offerings and smudging were part of the ceremony.

Over the years Dr. Walker has worked to help the Academy's Communities understanding of the rich heritage Aboriginal Peoples of all the Maritimes, and help the public realize the invaluable contributions that we, the Métis/Aboriginals, have made and continue to make to the Regions that we live in.

Our registration continues to grow, but please remember we still need dues to be paid.

Our outside gear has not been returned to the Nation, as well as our fur pelts that were sent to us, but we shall replace them when the need arises.

Regardless what some of you have heard (we are not separatists). We, EWMNNS, are still strong and getting stronger each day. Unity is our motto.

We have launched a new website, www.easternwoodlandmetisnation.ca it is a much more professional site and one which I hope you all enjoy. The application form can now be downloaded as well each and every page (individually). Our newsletter will be on the site too.

NEWS FROM THE NATION!

Roland Surette and Donald LeBlanc as well as Paul Tufts left our Nation to form another group called "Acadian/Metis Association". We are not Separatists as they are. We believe in Unity! I will quote Roland Surette and Donald LeBlanc: "All Acadians are Métis but not all Métis are Acadian". When we, EWMNNS, would not conform with their wishes to change our name, they left to start yet another SPLINTER GROUP!! We know who we are. SHAME ON YOU!! As I so often say, we are not like a blanket, one piece of unbroken cloth, the same colour and size. Métis/Aboriginals are like quilts, many patches, sizes and colours all woven and held together by a common thread.

A family of EWMNNS members have been accepted in Fort John, British Columbia, and the children are attending pre-school classes and are being taught Michif language, dancing and drumming.

Members are still being accepted by Community Colleges in Nova Scotia.

My Grand Niece has been accepted by the Wabinokey Métis in Maine and also by the University of Maine.

James Paterson, a member, secured a position at Sydney Tar Pond with our card. So you see, we ARE making progress.

We have elected a new Captain of the Hunt and also a new Negotiator. They will work for the Nation and not for glory.

Let me introduce you to Captain Robert Thibeau, he is the aboriginal desk officer of the Canadian Defence Academy and also a proud member of our Nation. He sent along an item for this newsletter, which will send to you so you can get to know him better.

>> Please remember that we are a dues related organization and rely on your annual dues to keep us going smoothly. <<

Remember the greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in which direction we are going.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and...

May your troubles be less

And your blessings be more

And may nothing but happiness

Walk through your door.

May the Creator bless you all.

Yutta Hii

Earthmother

Canadian Forces Breaking New Ground

By Captain Robert Thibeau (proud metis member)

Over the past number of years there has certainly been positive steps taken by the Canadian forces (CF) Units recognition aboriginals and aboriginal youth and the need to reach out to all Aboriginal groups. Approximately 20 years ago the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian nations (FSIN) approached the CF to become partners in a program for youth. The Bold Eagle program was developed and designed to offer youth the opportunity to be employed in a military basic training course which also included a strong cultural component. Bold Eagle has grown from what was a provincial opportunity for aboriginal youth to a course that now includes all of Western Canada as well as a portion of North Western Ontario. This area in the CF is known as Land Forces Area (LFWA). The success and growth of this program has been well noticed and the CF has been able to attract Aboriginal to both the Regular and Reserve force components of the service.

Approximately 5 years ago another youth program was introduced in the province of British Columbia and under managed by the Canadian Navy in Esquimalt in B.C. The Raven program is similar in nature to Bold Eagle, however 2 years ago this lost its regional face as the CF moved this program onto the national stage, As a national program recruiting included Aboriginals from all groups from across Canada. The course has changed dramatically over the past two years and now mirrors the Bold Eagle Program. The cultural component of this course has brought on a more naturalistic face which recognizes the three Aboriginal groups: First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures. Prior to the military training portion of the course participants attend a four day culture camp led by Elders or teachers representing First Nation, Métis and Inuit. The purpose of the camp is to engage in traditional cultural ceremonies and teachings designed to build pride in all Aboriginal cultures while emphasizing respect for each other and each others unique culture. This past summer the camp included elders from both First Nation and Métis as well as teachers from First Nations and Inuit. The overall success of this camp is extremely hard to put into words , however emotion is one word that can be used to describe the pride that was felt by all three Nations. A second National Youth program which is the same as Bold Eagle and Raven is being introduced in the summer of 2009. The Black Bear program will offer the same course as Bold Eagle and Raven however the CF is now Expanding these programs into the eastern part of Canada. Again both Raven and Black Bear will remain as national programs.

In august of 2008 after two years of refinement, the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY) commenced at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) .this program allows 30 candidates to enroll the CF at RMC as officer cadets for a period of one year. Students are selected based on academic potential as well as cultural community involvement as well as other criteria. Students require a minimum of grade 12 and must pass the CF enrollment standard at the recruiting center. Students entering the program are those who do not have those marks or course required to apply and be accepted into a post secondary institution in Canada. With tailor made tutoring plans as well as military leadership training, this program is seen as a useful tool for success and opportunity. Again, culture is an important part of this program. ALOY will expand again next year as the Royal Military College in St. Jean Quebec will offer the same program as this means there is the potential for 60 students to be enrolled in this program.

As you can see I have mentioned a great deal about culture. There are Aboriginals who have entered some of these programs who in some cases, know very little about their Aboriginal culture. The CF recognizes this and fully supports the Aboriginal culture and it is incumbent upon all Aboriginal bands and organizations to stress the importance of culture. Aboriginal culture within this land (Kanata) Canada must be a source of pride foe all Aboriginal groups an individuals. We must also never forget the many contributions made by our Aboriginal Veterans of the past, the present and the future

Be Proud!

Capt. R. Thibeau



**RENEWAL FORM
EASTERN WOODLAND MÉTIS NATION NOVA SCOTIA**

IMPORTANT! This form is only for membership renewal and not for new registration. If you are looking to become registered, please use a different form.

Renewal of Membership

Please remember that we are a dues related organization. By keeping your membership dues paid up to date, you are helping your Nation to keep you informed of happenings in and around your

Annual membership dues are \$20.00 per year and due by December 31 of each year.

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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TELEPHONE; HOME _____ WORK _____

E.W.# _____ (this number appears on your identification card)

Years Owing: 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

Return to the following address:

**Eastern Woodland Métis Nation Nova Scotia
Pier One Complex 1A-W
101 Water Street
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Canada
B5A 4P4**

Phone/Fax: 902-742-3304

Website: <http://www.easternwoodlandmetisnation.ca>

Email: contact@easternwoodlandmetisnation.ca

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Thank you for bring your membership up to date!